

REMARKS

The four rejections of Claims 3, 4, 6-11, 13 and 15-19 as being unpatentable over Nagasaka et al in view of Chase and either Swatton et al or Yoon et al, and of Claim 20 as being unpatentable over Nagasaka et al in view of Chou and either Swatton et al or Yoon et al and further in view of Asai, each under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration is requested in view of the foregoing amendment and following comments.

Applicants incorporate by reference herein their previous remarks concerning the differences between the present invention and the Nagasaka et al and Chou references. Those remarks are at least, if not more, relevant to Claim 3 as amended.

The invention to which the proposed amendment is directed relates to a personal identification device using blood vessel patterns. The personal identification device provides a flat sensor including the lens array. Importantly, the personal identification device is of the non-contact type like that only mentioned in the Nagasaka et al patent in which some inventors are the same as in the present invention. Col. 4, lines 55-60 of that patent describes reducing the possibility of the finger touching the glass plate, whereby the blood vessel would be compressed and a hemal pattern missed.

For the non-contact type device of the present invention, a lens array which corrects the infrared ray scattered by the finger has proven to be essential. In Fig. 6 of the present application, if only filters 101, 102 were used, the

distance between a sensor and a non-contact finger would result in an undesirably large with a resultant decreased diffusion perpendicular component and reduced contrast.

Nagasaki et al patent discloses a filter which transmits the near-infrared light, and corresponds to the first filter 102 in the present invention. It does not disclose or suggest a filter 102 used in the present invention.

While the Nagasaki et al patent discloses a camera 114 in Figs. 1 and 2, the camera includes a large size lens, not a array of small size lenses. Likewise, none of Chou, Swatton et al or Yoon et al discloses the claimed lens array. Even if it could be argued that impermissible hindsight would not have been necessary to combine teachings of one or more of these references with the Nagasaka et al identification device. For that reason, a *prima facie* case of obviousness is not established.

Accordingly, early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

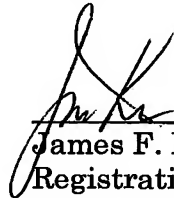
If the Examiner deems any issues to remain outstanding, Applicant's undersigned representative would invite a personal interview with the Examiner prior to issuance of any further written action if that would advance prosecution of this case.

If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 056205.57280US).

Respectfully submitted,

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